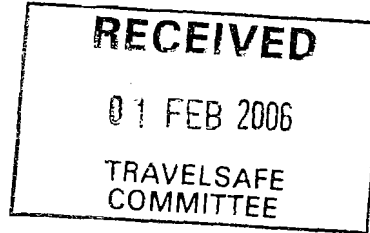
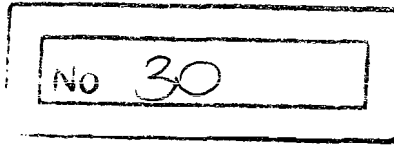


Commerce Queensland

QUEENSLAND'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

27 January 2006

Mr Jim Pearce MP
Member for Fitzroy
Chairman
Travelsafe Committee
Parliament House, George Street
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Dear Mr Pearce

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Committee's Inquiry into vehicle impoundment for drink drivers.

Commerce Queensland, as the State's Chamber of Commerce and Industry represents the interests of about 25,000 businesses across Queensland.

Our interest in this issue is primarily confined to the Committee's deliberations on vehicle sanctions for company owned vehicles.

Clearly the business community supports measures that reduce the incidence of drink driving, the economic and social cost of which is a significant burden on the entire community.

Furthermore, the business community accepts responsibility for ensuring that employees understand that drink driving is not acceptable. To that end, many companies have zero tolerance policies for alcohol and drugs in the workplace.

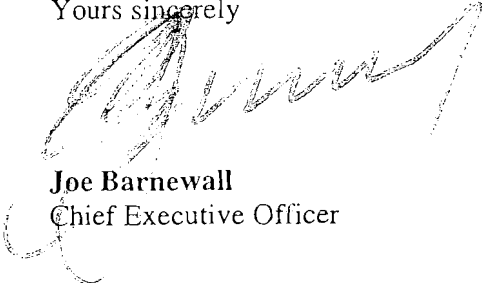
However, while recognising that vehicle sanctions provide effective and practical means for reducing drink driving recidivism, Commerce Queensland would strongly oppose measures that result in a company losing access to a vehicle that is used or shared by other drivers, as a result of the actions of one of the drivers. Impounding or forfeiting company vehicles (other than temporarily) in these circumstances would impose significant costs on business and would be grossly unfair.

I understand that the "hooning laws" under the Queensland Police Powers and Responsibilities Act provide for vehicles to be forfeited in certain circumstances; however, this does not apply to company vehicles. Clearly, a precedent has been set in this area. I accept that there would need to be checks and balances to ensure that relief for companies is not abused.

I am certain business will support measures which target specific drivers, for example confiscating ignition keys and alcohol interlocks.

I look forward to further input to this significant policy issue.

Yours sincerely


Joe Barnewall
Chief Executive Officer

Member of



Incorporating

